[BongoHive, Mozilla Expand Africa's Internet Base](#)

The information technology industry has been a huge growth engine for the U.S. economy since the 1990s. Its growth rate over the last 20 years has exceeded the national average, and created more than 1.5 million jobs.

Whether Africa's expanding IT sector will be able to stimulate similar growth will depend greatly on Africans themselves, according to one industry insider.

"What value are you bringing to the table, that is the question you should always be asking yourself," said Lukonga Lindunda, a Mandela Washington Fellow who is an information technology entrepreneur in Lusaka, Zambia.

"What value do you have that you feel Google can invest [in], not just give you free money," is another question that Lindunda posed to his audience of young Africans as a member of a Washington panel discussion about Internet access and availability.

If Africans want to leap into the online global marketplace of goods, commerce and ideas, Lindunda said African Internet users must demonstrate that they are desirable customers who provide business expansion opportunities for huge IT companies.

Lindunda is part of the team that started the IT innovation hub [BongoHive](#). He and his partners started with just about nothing in 2011. Now they've helped link like-minded people across the continent, using social networks to connect about 100 hubs of innovation and entrepreneurship.

[BongoHive](#) pioneers are "out-of-the-box thinkers" who want to apply their own innovation and creativity to achieve sustainable progress in business, education, health and other fields.

Watch Lukongo's Full Comments Here:

[Mozilla-Uganda](#) is another nonprofit organization working to expand Internet accessibility and literacy in Africa. Mozilla is a global nonprofit organization that views the Web as a public resource to be shared. They brought together volunteers in Uganda who are bringing greater Web access to Ugandan users.

"These volunteers have localized the Firefox browser to local languages and brought that technology to the community around them," said Leah Gilliam, who represented Mozilla on the panel.

Mozilla is all about "making is learning." They created the [Webmaker tool](#) to help people learn about Web development to pass it on and teach those skills to an ever-broader network of people. Listen to what Mozilla says about the Maker Party:

Listen or watch clips from the rest of this panel here to learn more, and share your thoughts about Internet innovation and expansion in Africa at #YALICHAT:

[Yahoo's Policy of "Technology First"](#)

[IBM's Work with African Nations](#)

[#YALICHAT with Dikembe Mutombo](#)

Eight-time NBA All-Star, NBA Global Ambassador and Chairman
of the Dikembe Mutombo Foundation joined #YALICHAT to discuss
leadership, teamwork and his work in Africa.

[[View the story "#YALICHAT with Dikembe Mutombo" on
Storify](#)]

[#YALICHAT with Illinois Senator Napoleon Harris](#)

Napoleon Harris, State Senator from Illinois' 15th District,
was also a first-round draft pick for the National Football League's
Oakland Raiders. After years with the NFL, he returned to his native
Illinois to serve his community through public office.

[[View the story "#YALICHAT with Illinois Senator Napoleon
Harris" on Storify](#)]

[#YALICHAT with Mary Harvey](#)

Mary Harvey is a former U.S. goalkeeper and current
leadership consultant. Mary has won both a FIFA World Cup and an Olympic
gold medal with the U.S. Women's National Team. She's also been the
Director of Development at FIFA and the Chief Operating Officer for
Women's Professional Soccer.

[[View the story "#YALICHAT with Mary Harvey" on
Storify](#)]

[#YALICHAT with U.S. Senator Chris Coons](#)

U.S. Senator Chris Coons of Delaware is Chairman of the
Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Africa. He published a piece on
the promise of Africa's next generation ([read it here](#)) for the YALI Network.

[[View the story "#YALICHAT with U.S. Senator Chris Coons"
on Storify](#)]

[#YALICHAT with Secretary Kerry](#)

Secretary of State John Kerry hosted a Twitter chat to
engage with members of the Young African Leaders Initiative Network and
answer questions about his recent trip to Africa and U.S. policy in the
region.

[[View the story "#YALICHAT with Secretary Kerry" on
Storify](#)]

[#YALICHAT On U.S. Policy toward Sub-Saharan Africa](#)

With Grant Harris, Special Assistant to President Obama and
Senior Director for African Affairs. Top 5 participating countries
included Nigeria, Tanzania, Ghana, Zambia and Kenya.

[[View the story "#YALICHAT On U.S. Policy toward
Sub-Saharan Africa" on Storify](#)]

#YALICHAT on Social Entrepreneurship

With U.S. Special Advisor on Global Youth Issues @Zeenat and
Founder of Always Prepped @FahadHassan.

[View the story "#YALICHAT on Social Entrepreneurship" on
Storify]

#YALICHAT with Young African Leaders

Highlights of the Twitter chat with Under Secretary Richard
Stengel (@stengel), Coordinator Macon Phillips (@macon44), and Assistant
Secretary Evan Ryan (@eca_as).

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